OPINION

Nothing to do?

The following article is taken from "The Wayne Independent" which published this originally September 18, 1958. It was printed in response to a Letter to the Editor where a teenager complained, "There's nothing to do." A friend of a staff writer at that paper sent this article in response to that old complaint.

We reprint it here for parents and future parents because it seems appropriate.

"JUST COMMENTING"

The mother of a teenage student and Ralph N. Peterson of the department of guidance of the Spokane public schools, became engrossed one day in the ubiquitous complaint of the teenagers about not having anything to do.

They came up with an answer -- several of them for that matter, and they are gaining in circulation. The piece is reprinted here from the "Seattle Post-Intelligencer."

"Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teenagers:

"What can we do ...?

"Where can we go ...?

"I can make some suggestions. Go home!

"Hang storm windows, paint the woodwork. Rake the leaves. Mow the lawn, shovel the walk, wash the car, learn to cook, scrub some floors, repair the sink, build a boat, get a job.

"Help the minister, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Visit the sick, assist the poor, study your lessons - and when you are through - and not too tired - read a book.

"Your parents do not owe you entertainment.

"Your village does not owe you recreational facilities.

"The world does not owe you a thing.

"You owe the world something ...

"In plain simple words: Grow up; quit being a crybaby; get out of your dream world; develop a backbone, not a wishbone; and start acting like a man or a woman."

"I'm a parent. I'm tired of nursing, protecting, helping, appealing, begging, excusing, tolerating, denying myself needed comforts for your every whim and fancy just because your selfish ego, instead of common sense, dominates your personality and thinking and requests."